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CONFIDENTIAL 11 October 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, TSS/Special Devices Staff

SUBJECT : Request for Assistance in Burial Test Program, [redacted]

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1. This memorandum will serve to supplement a discussion with [redacted] Chief of TSS/Special Devices Staff, regarding TSS/SDS assistance in the current Burial Testing Program at [redacted]

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2. Caches were placed in several environments at [redacted] in August 1954. The first inspection was performed in March 1955, and the second inspection is scheduled for the first week in November 1955. At the first inspection, it was evident that several of the crates and boxes used to hold the items under test together and prevent their being lost in wet and mucky environments were in a state of disrepair. New boxes were called for in many instances, but no material was available at [redacted] to make new boxes or even repair the old ones adequately. Hence, the old ones were patched up as best they could; and where this was not possible the items were placed in the ground loose.

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3. It would be very helpful to the program if TSS/SDS personnel at [redacted] could obtain material and construct new boxes in time for the second inspection in November. It is expected that eight new boxes will be required.

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4. These boxes should have overall dimensions of 7 by 14 by 24 inches. These measurements are not critical and may be changed in accordance with available lumber. They should be boxes, not crates, but with a crack width between boards of approximately 1/4 inch to permit the environment to come in contact with the items. If the cracks are made much wider than this, some of the smaller contents may fall out.

Style of box is unimportant. The lumber should perhaps be of 1/2 inch stock to make a structurally adequate box. Roofing nails or other nails having a rough finish have been found preferable to finishing nails. A smooth-finished nail tends to loosen and fall out after a few months burial in a wet environment. Type and quality of lumber is unimportant.

5. In making these boxes, it will be best to have the cover boards sawed to size but not nailed in place until after the transfer of goods has been made. TSS/Engineering Division appreciates the assistance offered by [redacted] for the Burial Test Program.

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Chief
Engineering Division, TSS

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